

REMARKS

Amended claim 3 includes all the limitations of Claims 1 and 3, and should now be allowable. Amended claim 8 includes all the limitations of Claims 6, 7, and 8 and should now be allowable. The amended and original claims are argued for below, following arguments for the new claims.

New Claims. The new claims are supported and exemplified as set out below:

Support for new Claim 9 is found in the description beginning on page 21, line 36 to page 22, line 14. For an example of the subject matter of claim 9, assume that yellow, magenta, and black image forming sections are detected and magenta and cyan image forming sections are selected. The, only a magenta image is printed even though image data contain data for yellow, magenta, cyan and black images.

Support for Claim 10 is found in the description on page 22, line 7-10.

Support for Claim 11 is found in the description beginning on page 22, lines 10-14.

Support for Claim 12 is found in the description on page 22, lines 22-27.

Support for Claim 13 is found in the description on page 20, lines 4-10.

Support for Claim 14 is found in the description on page 21, line 36 to page 22, line 6. For an example of claim 14, even if color image data is available, the color image data is not printed if a corresponding image forming section is not selected.

Support for Claim 15 is found in the specification on page 14, lines 3-11.

Support for Claim 16 is found in the description on page 24, bottom lines 5-17. For an example of Claim 16, if color image data is available, the controller causes a corresponding image forming section detected by the detecting section to operate. If only yellow and magenta image forming sections are detected, then yellow and magenta images are printed. If only a cyan image forming section is detected, then only the cyan image is printed. Even if color image data

is available, the color image data is not printed if a corresponding image forming section is not detected by the detecting section.

Support for Claim 17 is found in the description from page 26, line 4 from bottom to page 27, line 5.

New claims 18-20 are supported at page 4, line 7 from the bottom.

Patentability of the New Claims. The Applicant believes that added claims 9, 16, and 17 are patentable over the cited references for the following reasons.

The present invention defined in suggested Claims 9, 16, and 17 are directed to an image forming apparatus having a plurality of image forming sections that are removably attached to a body of the printing apparatus and form images on a medium one over the other in registration.

The apparatus according to Claims 9, 16, and 17 have the following advantage. A plurality of image forming sections are removably attached to the body of the printing apparatus and form images on a medium one over the other in registration. When a user does not attach an image forming section (s) in the printer or allows limited image forming section(s) in the printer to operate in order to save developer, an image is formed with a color or colors available in the printer.

Ide is directed to a copying machine that employs a single photoconductive drum 20, a single charger 21, a single lens array 23 (exposing unit), and a plurality of developing units (e.g., red and black) that are disposed around the photoconductive drum 20 (Col. 3, lines 39-44). The Examiner states that Ide discloses a plurality of image forming sections 241 and 242 that are removably attached to the printer, but references numerals 241 and 242 denote a black developer and red developer, respectively, disposed around the single photosensitive drum 20, and this does not amount to a plurality of image forming sections. The developer control circuits 111 and 112 select either the black developer 24, or the red developer 242, in such away that the selected developer contacts the drum 20 (Col. 6, lines 18-24 and Col. 4, lines 57-60).

Ide states that development is “monochromatic” at Col. 2, line 68. Ide elsewhere states that its machine is capable of printing “a multi-colored copy” (Col. 13, lines 32-34), but Ide puts this phrase in quotation marks because it actually prints one color at a time, with the paper stack already printed with one color being put through the printer again, with a different color selected (Col. 13, lines 4-53).

In a single printing operation, Ide can only print monochrome images of different colors in different areas on a page of medium and cannot print a single image with multiple colors one over the other in registration on a page of medium. Thus, Ide completely differs from the present invention defined in Claims 9, 16, and 17. The printing apparatus according to Claims 9, 16, and 17 include a plurality of image forming section that are removably attached to a body of the printing apparatus and form images on a medium one over the other in registration. Ide does not disclose or suggest this.

Tanaka has a configuration similar to Ide. Tanaka employs a single photoconductive drum 2, a single charger 3, a single optical system 10 (exposing unit), and a plurality of developing rollers 4a and 5a of different colors (red and black). These structural elements are disposed around the single photoconductive drum 2 (Fig. 1, Col. 2 line 62 to Col. 3, line 45). One of the two developing devices 4 and 5 (400 and 500) is detachably mounted and the other is permanently attached in the printer (Col. 8, lines 56-65, Col. 11, lines 31-39). An electrostatic latent image is developed into a visible image by a selected one of the developing devices 4 and 5 (400 and 500) (Col.3, line 39-41, Col. 9, lines 47-49, lines 50-57). Like Ide, Tanaka can print a monochrome image with only a single color in a single image printed on a page of medium and cannot print images with multiple colors one over the other in registration in a single image printed on a page of medium. Tanaka does not disclose an apparatus as defined in new Claims 9, 16, and 17 in which a plurality of image forming section are removably attached to a body of the printing apparatus and form images on a medium one over the other in registration.

Kinoshita also has a configuration similar to **Ide**. **Kinoshita** employs a single photoconductive drum 1, a single charger 3, a single LED 7 (exposing unit), and a plurality of developing devices 4, 5, and 6 of different colors (e.g., white, red, black). These structural elements are disposed around the photoconductive drum 1 (Fig. 1). The operator can select a desired developing device by switching the developing devices by depressing the developing portion selecting key 79 (Col. 4, lines 14-19). If the white developing portion is located upstream of a developing portion(s) of another color, then printing is prevented (Figs. 8(a)-8(b)). **Kinoshita** does not disclose an apparatus as defined in suggested Claims 9, 16, and 17 in which a plurality of image forming section are removably attached to a body of the printing apparatus and form images on a medium one over the other in registration. Thus, **Kinoshita** completely differs from the present invention defined in Claims 9, 16, and 17.

In response to the Outstanding Office Action:

[1-4] of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) and 1.84(p)(4). A proposed drawing change is attached.

[5-6] The Examiner objected to the specification and the title. These are amended in view of the Examiner's remarks.

[7-9] Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by **Ide**. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ide does not disclose the newly-recited feature, "each one of the image forming sections being capable of forming an image of a respective color independently from the other image forming sections." As was discussed above, **Ide** shows only one drum and the colors (black and red) cannot be printed at the same time.

[10-11] Claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by **Kinoshita**. This rejection is respectfully traversed on the same basis as the rejection under **Ide**.

[12-14] Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ide in view Kinoshita. Claim 2 is canceled and the rejection is moot.

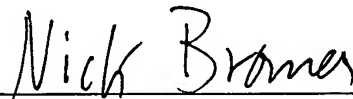
[15-16] Claim 7 was rejected under USC 103 § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinoshita et al. in view of Tanaka et al. The rejection of claim 7 is traversed on the basis of its dependence.

[17] Claims 3-5 and 8 are allowable if amended to include the limitations of base claims 1 and 7 and any intervening claims. Claims 3 and 8 are so amended and allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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